

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11
CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00 EB-08 FCC-01 INR-10
NSAE-00 OC-06 ICA-11 COME-00 BIB-01 OIC-02 FAA-00
DOTE-00 DODE-00 /107 W
-----085978 231010Z /14

R 230945Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9975
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O.11652:N/A
TAGS: ETEL, ITU, CEPT, WARC
SUBJECT: ITU: THIRTY-THIRD SESSION OF ADMINISTRATIVE
COUNCIL SITUATION REPORT - FIRST WEEK

1. SUMMARY: TIMING OF NEXT ITU PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PLENIPOT) AND FOLLOW-ON RADIO CONFERENCE TO 1979 WORLD ADMINISTRATION RADIO CONFERENCE (1979 WARC) WERE PRIMARY ISSUES OF INTEREST TO U.S. DURING INITIAL WEEK OF THREE-WEEK COUNCIL SESSION. COMPROMISE OF LATE 1982 IS EMERGING AS CONSENSUS DATE FOR PLENIPOT. STRONG UK PUSH FOR GENERAL MOBILE SERVICES CONFERENCE APPEARS, FOR TIME BEING, TO HAVE ECLIPSED DEP SEC GEN'S PREFERENCE FOR SECOND CLEAN-UP SESSION OF WARC ITSELF. COUNCIL WILL RETURN TO MOBILE CONFERENCE MATTER LATE SECOND WEEK, WITH LIKELY ACTION BEING RESOLUTION TO 1979 WARC. END SUMMARY

2. WIDE DIVERGENCE IN VIEWS EVIDENT ON ALMOST ALL ISSUES, RESULTING IN TENDENCY TO DEFER DECISIONS WITH OBJECTIVE OF REACHING COMPROMISE SOLUTIONS NEGOTIATED OUTSIDE FORMAL MEETINGS. COUNTRIES MOST ACTIVE IN DEBATE IN ADDITION TO U.S. HAVE BEEN INDIA, U.K., FRANCE, SPAIN,
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BRAZIL, CAMEROON, FRG, CANADA, USSR AND POLAND. JAPAN AND CHINA RARELY INTERVENE, ALTHOUGH HAVE SOUGHT OUT U.S. BEHIND THE SCENES TO DISCUSS KEY ITEMS.

3. WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ARE DIVIDED ON MANY ISSUES AND THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT CEPT EFFORTS AT COORDINATION HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVE. MOST OBVIOUS EXAMPLE WAS

INABILITY OF REGION TO AGREE ON EUROPEAN CANDIDATE FOR CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE 2, RESULTING IN ELECTION OF EL AOUD (MOROCCO) FOR THAT POST AND HEALEY (UK) AS VICE CHAIRMAN. MAJOR CONSEQUENCE OF WEST EUROPEAN FAILURE TO REACH COMPROMISE SOLUTION GAVE U.S. CHAIRMANSHIP OF COMMITTEE 3 TO AVOID HAVING THREE FRANCOPHONE AFRICANS IN KEY POSTS AS ORIGINALLY PROPOSED (VICE CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL, CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE 2, CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE 3). ALTHOUGH JIPGUEP (CAMEROON) IS PERSONALLY DISAPPOINTED AT NOT OBTAINING COMMITTEE 3 (TECHNICAL COOPERATION) CHAIRMANSHIP AND SOME OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES ALSO FEEL LET DOWN, PARTICULARLY GIVEN THE PROTRACTED NEGOTIATIONS FOR THESE SLOTS BEFORE AND UPON ARRIVAL, SEVERAL DC DELEGATES TOLD USDEL PRIVATELY THAT THEY ARE RELIEVED TO HAVE U.S. CHAIR COMMITTEE. EXCEPTION IS FRENCH DELEGATE, DUPLAN, WHO MADE STATEMENT IN PLENARY SUGGESTING NEED FOR ROTATION AND TO AVOID PROLONGING SITUATION IN WHICH "SOME COUNTRIES ARE MORE EQUAL THAN OTHERS."

4. DELEGATES HAVE GENERALLY AVOIDED POLITICAL OR PROPAGANDA INTERVENTIONS. DOCUMENTS LISTING UNGA RESOLUTIONS INCLUDING 32/40 ON PALESTINE WERE MERELY NOTED. ONLY EXCEPTION WAS PRC CASTIGATION OF "OLD AND NEW IMPERIALISTS" IN BRIEF INTERVENTION FOR THE RECORD. THERE IS HOWEVER, NORTH-SOUTH DIVISION ON KEY ISSUES, SUCH AS NEED FOR TIMING OF PLENIPOT, WITH AFRICANS AND INDIA THE LEADING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SPOKESMEN FOR EARLY PLENIPOT. SEVERAL LDC'S, ALGERIA AMONG THEM, LEFT NO DOUBT OF THEIR INTENTION TO MOUNT MAJOR EFFORT AT PLENIPOT TO INCREASE BUDGET LIMITS, REVISE CONVENTION TO PERMIT TECHNICAL COOPERATION FROM REGULAR ITU BUDGET AND INCREASE TECHNICAL COOPERATION.

5. USSR AND BLOC COUNTRIES PUSHED FOR CONCENTRATION ON REGULAR WORK OF ITU, NEED FOR ECONOMY, AND DELAY IN DECISIONS ON PLENIPOT AND OTHER ISSUES WHICH MIGHT OPEN UP CONVENTION. FOR WESTERN COUNTRIES, THE UK HAS TAKEN LEAD ON POSITION OF OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, QUESTIONING NEED FOR CONVENING PLENIPOT IN NEAR TERM. WE ARE RELIABLY INFORMED THAT INDIAN INITIATIVE FOR PLENIPOT IN 1980 OR 1981 WAS STIMULATED BY SYG MILI, BUILDING ON PERSONAL INTEREST OF SRIRANGAN (INDIA) TO SEEK ELECTION TO IFRB. ON PLENIPOT, CONSENSUS AS NOTED IN PARA ONE (SUMMARY) WOULD INVOLVE POSTPONING REGION 2 BROADCASTING SATELLITE CONFERENCE FROM 1982 TO EARLY 1983. THIS HAS BEEN PROPOSED TO LATIN AMERICAN DELS BY CANADIAN DELEGATE, WARREN, AND APPEARS TO HAVE WIDE SUPPORT.

6. MOBILE CONFERENCE PROPOSAL OF UK: SWEDEN, CANADA,

GERMANY, BRAZIL, INDIA, SPAIN, ITALY, AND FRANCE HAVE SUPPORTED UK PROPOSAL IN PRINCIPLE, WITH VARIATIONS IN HOW FAR ADMIN COUNCIL SHOULD GO IN RESOLUTION TO 1979 WARC, PARTICULARLY REGARDING DATE FOR MOBILE CONFERENCE AND DURATION. INDIA AND SWEDEN HAVE BEEN RESPONSIVE TO U.S. DIFFICULTIES WITH UK PROPOSAL. US VIEWS PRESENTED BOTH AT THE MEETING AND FURTHER ELABORATED IN INFORMAL SESSIONS. ONLY EGYPT AND SWITZERLAND SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF US POSITION. IN EFFORT TO REACH COMPROMISE, COUNCIL HAS DEFERRED DECISION UNTIL LATER IN SESSION, WHILE UK ATTEMPTS TO DRAFT ACCEPTABLE LANGUAGE FOR RESOLUTION TO 1979 WARC.

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NSAE-00 OC-06 ICA-11 COME-00 BIB-01 OIC-02 FAA-00
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7. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. COMMITTEE 1 - FINANCE-MET TWICE. TRANSFER OF FOUR POSTS TO REGULAR BUDGET FROM SUPPLEMENTARY PUBLICATIONS BUDGET WHICH WAS INITIALLY RESISTED BY US, FRG, FRANCE, AGREED TO IN PRINCIPLE WITH EXPLANATION THAT INCUMBENTS DO GENERAL SECRETARIAT WORK. TO US QUERY WHETHER RECENT REDUCTIONS IN CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS BUDGET TO TORREMOLINOS CEILING WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FOR 1979 WARC, DEPUTY SEC GEN CITED REDUCED ANTICIPATED REQUIREMENT FOR DOCUMENTS AND LOWER CONFERENCE CENTER RENT AS CONTRIBUTING TO REDUCTION. COUNCIL NOTED NUMBER OF JIU REPORTS, INCLUDING ONE WHICH DESCRIBED ACTION TAKEN BY ALL SPECIALIZED AGENCIES CONCERNING ACCEPTANCE OF JIU STATUTE.

B. COMMITTEE 2 (STAFF AND PENSIONS)-MET ONCE. ICSC CHAIRMAN, PRESENT AS OBSERVER, EXPLAINED BACKGROUND OF SEVENTEEN PERCENT REDUCTION IN GENERAL SERVICE SALARY SCALES, AND IN RESPONSE TO US QUESTION SAID THAT AGENCIES IN GENEVA WERE GIVEN FLEXIBILITY IN JUDGING WHETHER ANNUAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STEP INCREMENTS SHOULD BE BASED ON OLD OR NEW SALARY SCALES. ITU PERSONNEL CHIEF LATER EXPLAINED THAT, ACCORDING TO ILO LEGAL STAFF, ITU STEP INCREMENTS SHOULD BE BASED ON OLD SALARY SCALES FOR EXISTING PERSONNEL SINCE CONTRACTS CITED MAXIMUM SALARY. SITUATION WAS DIFFERENT FOR NEW PERSONNEL. DISCUSSION CENTERED ON ISSUE OF AMOUNT OF IN-GRADE STEP INCREASES TO BE ACCORDED ITU EMPLOYEES IN LIGHT OF FINDING THAT GENERAL SERVICES WAGE SCALES SHOULD BE REDUCED SEVENTEEN PERCENT FOR UN AGENCY PERSONNEL IN GENEVA. ITU PERSONNEL DIRECTOR CONFIRMED THAT PAY OF TEMPORARY STAFF IS TO BE REDUCED SEVENTEEN PERCENT.

C. COMPUTER STUDY - UK/BAPTISTE LED FORCEFUL, WELL-THOUGHT-THROUGH, AND THUS FAR SUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO SCHEDULE STUDY AND DEVELOPMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE COMPUTER CAPABILITY FOR IFRB IMMEDIATELY AFTER 1979 WARC. US SUPPORTED STRONGLY, STRESSING NEED TO INVOLVE COMPUTER DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SECRETARIAT IN EFFORT. IFRB TO DRAW UP SUMMARY INCORPORATING ROUGH TIMETABLE PROPOSED BY UK THROUGH 1982 AND MATTER WILL BE DISCUSSED FURTHER AT THIS SESSION. NOTING INABILITY OF U.S. TO MAKE COMMITMENT AT THIS TIME, U.S. UNDERTOOK TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF AGAIN SUPPLYING EXPERTISE FOR 3-4 WEEK MEETING EARLY NEXT YEAR TO CONSIDER IFRB PROPOSALS AND PREPARE REPORT FOR 34TH ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL.

D. COMMITTEE 3 (TECHNICAL COOPERATION) MEETS MONDAY OF SECOND WEEK.

8. ABSENCE OF ZAIRE: NO REPRESENTATIVE OF ZAIRE HAS APPEARED, ALTHOUGH TWO DELEGATES PREREGISTERED SEVERAL MONTHS PRIOR TO OPENING. NO COMMUNICATION FROM GOZ HAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEEN RECEIVED EXPLAINING THIS ABSENCE. ON MAY 18, ITU CABLED ZAIRE ADMINISTRATION REQUESTING FURTHER INFORMATION, BUT NO RESPONSE HAS BEEN RECEIVED AS YET.

9. REP OF FRANCE (DUPLAN) HAS INFORMED US DEL THAT HE IS INCENSED AT NEW ITU/UNDP PUBLICATION "TELECOMMUNICATION AND DEVELOPMENT" (ITU BOOKLET NO. 22) IN WHICH LANGUAGE IS PARTICULARLY CRITICAL OF DEVELOPED NATIONS AND TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS. SPECIFIC REFERENCES AND "FORMER COLONIAL POWERS" IN CHAPTER 1, PAGES 14-15, ACCUSING TRANSNATIONALS OF ALL MANNER OF MISDEEDS HAS UPSET FRENCH DEL DUPLAN WHO IS PRESENTLY SEEKING SUPPORT FOR A FORMAL PROTEST OUTSIDE THE SESSION.

10. SEVERAL COUNCILLORS HAVE SOUGHT OUT USDEL TO DISCUSS BILATERAL ISSUES, INCLUDING TAT 7, IMMARSAT, (SWEDISH DEL INITIATIVE) AND SOVIET DEL INTEREST IN VISIT TO U.S. TO DISCUSS SOVIET PROBLEMS WITH INTELSAT OPERATIONS. SEPARATE MESSAGES FOLLOW ON THESE. VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TELECOMMUNICATION, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA07886
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780216-0877
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780530/aaaaazey.tel
Line Count: 240
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fc9d0799-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2608709
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ITU: THIRTY-THIRD SESSION OF ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL SITUATION REPORT - FIRST WEEK
TAGS: ETEL, ITU, WARC, CEPT
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fc9d0799-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014